

Provisional outline of scope of Module 6

This module will examine the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the publicly and privately funded adult social care sector (the “Care Sector”) in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

It will consider the consequences of government decision making on those living and working within the Care Sector. This includes adult care and residential homes including care provided in the home (but not care provided within day care centres or in supported housing) and the decisions to free up capacity in hospitals by discharging patients into adult care and residential homes. It will address the steps taken in adult care and residential homes to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and examine the capacity of the adult care sector to respond to the pandemic. The module will also consider the impact of the pandemic on residents and their loved ones and the impact on staff working within the Care Sector.

In particular, this module will examine:

1. The impact of the pandemic on people’s experience of the Care Sector. This will focus on residents and their loved ones and those working within the Care Sector and will include consideration of the unequal impacts on them.
2. The structure of the Care Sector and the key bodies involved in the UK and Devolved Administrations at the start of and during the pandemic. This will include staffing levels and bed capacity immediately prior to the pandemic.
3. The key decisions made by the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations in respect of the Care Sector, including the decisions relating to the discharge of people from hospitals into adult care and residential homes in the early stages of the pandemic.
4. The management of the pandemic in adult care and residential homes. This will include the measures preventing the spread of Covid-19, such as infection prevention and control measures, testing for Covid-19, the availability and adequacy of personal protective equipment (PPE), restrictions on access by/to healthcare professionals and visits from loved ones.
5. The use of Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPRs) and communication with residents and their loved ones about the resident’s condition and treatment including discussions and decisions about DNACPRs.
6. The changes to the regulatory inspection regimes within the Care Sector.
7. Deaths related to the infection of Covid-19 including deaths of residents and staff.
8. Infection prevention and control measures for those providing care in the home, including by unpaid carers.